

CLAIMS

1. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to an extracellular localized epitope of Hsp70 on tumor cells.
2. The antibody of claim 1, wherein said tumor is a human tumor selected from the group consisting of colon, lung, stomach, pancreas, head and neck, ovary, and/or breast cancer, melanoma, glioblastoma, sarcoma and or leukemia such as AML, ALL, MDS or blastocytoma.
3. The antibody of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epitope comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence NLLGRFEL (SEQ ID NO: 1) or TKDNNLLGRFELSG (SEQ ID NO: 2).
4. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 3, which is a monoclonal antibody.
5. The antibody of claim 4, which is monoclonal antibody cmHsp70.1 as produced by hybridoma cmHsp70.1, deposited with the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig, Germany on November 14, 2003, and assigned Accession Number DSM ACC2629, or cmHsp70.2 as produced by hybridoma cmHsp70.2, deposited with the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH on November 14, 2003, and assigned Accession Number DSM ACC2630.
6. An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that competes with an antibody of claim 5 for binding to an extracellular localized epitope of Hsp70 on human tumor cells.
7. The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of any one of claims 1 to 6, which is capable of exhibiting an inhibitory effect on the cytolytic activity of NK cells against Hsp70 expressing tumor cells.
8. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 7, which is a human, humanized, xenogeneic, or a chimeric human-murine antibody.